



January 10, 2006

VVFC Providers:

The new Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella (MMRV) vaccine, called "ProQuad" and manufactured by Merck, has been added to the most recent version of the VVFC Order Form (1/12/2006). MMRV was approved by the FDA on 12/12/05 and recommendations for its use were published 10/2005 by the ACIP/CDC. VVFC will start accepting orders for MMRV starting 4 PM on 1/12/06. MMRV is shipped directly by Merck and will come separately from other vaccines.

MMRV has special storage requirements that are different from both MMR and Varicella. MMRV vaccine **CANNOT** be stored at refrigerator temperature (2-8 degrees C or 36-46 degrees F) for any length of time. MMRV must be stored at an average freezer temperature of -15°C or 5°F or colder. Typically "dorm-style" storage units are not sufficient for storage of MMRV, Varicella or FluMist. Your practice will need a unit with a separately sealed freezer compartment to properly store MMRV.

Condition on Arrival

- Must be frozen

Storage (Before reconstitution)

- ProQuad must be stored frozen at an average temperature of 5°F (-15°C) or colder.
- Any freezer (eg, chest, frost-free) that reliably maintains an average temperature of 5°F or colder and has a separate sealed freezer door is acceptable for storing ProQuad.
- Protect from light at all times.
- Store diluent separately at room temperature (68°F–77°F, 20°C–25°C), or in the refrigerator (36°F–46°F, 2°C–8°C).

Handling

- Use only with diluent supplied, and administer immediately after reconstitution.
- **DISCARD IF RECONSTITUTED VACCINE IS NOT USED WITHIN 30 MINUTES.**
- **DO NOT FREEZE reconstituted vaccine.**

You may download the newest VVFC Vaccine Order Form from our web site at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/imm/forms.asp>. It is also attached to this news brief. Please call the VVFC Office if you have any questions (800-568-1929 or 804-864-8055).

Sincerely,

Kristen M. Harker, M.S.Ed., CHES
VVFC Program Director

